

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIA DAMES OF AMERICA
IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA TOWN COMMITTEE WINTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

BY ZOOM

10:00 AM

ATTENDANCE : 76

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Town Chair, Mrs. Joseph Very Quarles III (Nancy). Nancy dedicated this meeting to the memory of our beloved Dame Sanford Mitchell Dunklin. She recognized that Stephanie Lynch, the Executive Assistant and Membership Manager for the NSCDA-GA, will be helping us with voting on line for the candidates for membership.

Mrs. George Robert Lindley, Jr. (Susan) led us in the Lord's Prayer and then we recited the Salute to the Flag. The Salute was followed by Mrs. Jeffrey Ray Kuester (Pam) leading us in the first verse of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee".

ARTICLE II OF THE DAMES' CONSTITUTION

Mrs. C. Samuel Ehlers (Joanie) read Article II of the Dames' Constitution.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Mrs. Erwin John Whelchel (Henny) stated that the Minutes of the Membership Meeting held on October 21, 2021 were approved by the Executive Committee on January 12, 2022. Henny made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes. The motion was seconded and approved. A second motion was made to approve the Minutes of the October 21, 2021 Membership Meeting. It was seconded and passed. The Minutes of the October 21, 2021 Meeting will be marked as approved and will be dated and signed by the Recording Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. William Ronald Hinson (Lisa) stated that our bank balance is \$ 110,347.87. Of this amount donor restricted funds total \$ 35,204.15 (Werner Fund, the Lamar Room, SHARE, Oakland and Patriots Camp) and board restricted funds are \$ 13,000.00 which will be used for our annual meeting this April. This leaves a net operating balance of \$ 62, 323.72. The commitment of

\$ 3000.00 to the Historic Homes and the Indian Nurse Scholarship Program will be made later this month.

ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT-CHANGES TO THE STANDING RULES

Mrs. Ben Lacy O'Callaghan, Jr. (Penny) read Section C of Article V of the Standing Rules: Annual dues shall be \$ 80.00 for all categories of membership (with the exception of Honorary Members. Article VII Section E.) Notices will be mailed and emailed on or before March 15th with options to pay online or by paper check. Deadline for payment is May 1st. After May 1st, a \$ 20.00 late fee will be assessed. After June 1st, the monthly late fee will be \$ 50.00. On June 15th, each delinquent Dame will receive a registered letter and will not be contacted again. If she does not pay the dues and any assessed late fees, she will no longer be in Good Standing with the Atlanta Town Committee and shall not receive Atlanta Town Committee communications, newsletters and invitations to meetings and field trips. She will not be able to propose or endorse candidates for membership. All changes to dues policy will be communicated frequently to the Atlanta Town Committee membership. Honorary Members, who do not pay Atlanta Town Committee Dues, will receive different communications offering opportunities to contribute to any other funds. Mrs. David Robert Bockel (Jane) added that the Full Board approved adding the date of August 1 to the sentence "If she does not pay the dues and any assessed late fees by August 1, she will no longer..." .

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Susan Lindley, head of the nominating committee, proposed for Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. John Baxter Gillespie (Vicki). Nancy asked for any nominations from the floor for the position. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. The new officer was approved as proposed and seconded. The newly elected officer will be inducted at the May 2022 Membership Meeting. Nancy thanked Jane Bockel profusely who will be stepping down as Corresponding Secretary. Nancy also stated that Penny O'Callahan had been appointed, pursuant to our Standing Rules, to the Executive Committee as the new Assistant Treasurer. Officers who will continue their terms for a second year are Nancy Quarles, Chair, and Helen McSwain, Vice Chair. Recording Secretary Henny Whelchel's term ends in May. Nancy asked if anyone was interested in this position to please talk to her.

OBLIGATIONS OF A DAME

Nancy called on Vicki Gillespie to discuss the obligations of a Dame. Vicki remarked that the Dames are entrusted with history's future. She informed us of all the historical buildings that have been saved by the Dames through the years and the funds that have been raised for projects such as outfitting the first USN Mercy Ships, the Mercy and the Comfort, in 1916. She encouraged all Atlanta Dames to continue in this path through contributions to the organizations we donate to such as Oakland Cemetery and gifts to preserve among others the Andrew Low and Abercorn Houses and to put on Patriots Camp.

VOTING ON NEW CANDIDATES

Nancy announced that we would now be voting on five candidates who have been proposed and endorsed by two of our members and she then explained the procedure for electing new members. New members, along with their proposers, will be notified by March 1, 2022 and should promptly write a formal acceptance. Our New Member's Advisor, Mrs. Hugh Buchanan Gage, Jr. (Alice) will be available to guide the candidates through the remaining part of the process. Nancy called on Mrs. William Lewis Bost III (Helen) to read Mrs. Samuel H. Orr's letter which must be read before the election of any new members per the State of Georgia bylaws.

Nancy called on Stephanie Lynch to put the ballots on the screen. Nancy emphasized that many of the members had already voted and did not need to do anything. Nancy also said that any retired Dames, courtesy Dames and guest members are not allowed to vote.

MEMBERSHIP

Nancy said that our Roster co-chairs, Mrs. William Eugene Hamilton, Jr. (Katie) and Mrs. Roy Merry Jones (Carter) report that we have 353 members. This number includes 21 courtesy, retired or guest members.

NECROLOGY REPORT

Mrs. Brooke Reeve III (Mandy) read Resolutions on Mrs. Philip Irby Dunklin, (Sanford Mitchell Dunklin) and on Mrs. Preston Standish Stevens, Jr. (Marian Stannard Hutter Stevens) who died since our last meeting. Mandy made a motion that these Resolutions be mailed to the families and "spread among the Minutes." Mandy then read a short prayer to remember these two Dames.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ATL 22

Ms. Sara Elizabeth Wight (Libba) and Vicki Gillespie are co-chairs for our state annual meeting being held on April 21, 2022. Libba reported that there will be a morning meeting starting at 9:30 am followed by a luncheon at the Piedmont Driving Club. There are 16 other societies in the state and she encouraged everyone to attend and welcome all of the members coming from around the state. There is also a dinner the night before at Cherokee which will be lots of fun. Husbands are welcome to come to this. Invitations go out March 1st and Libba looks forward to seeing everyone on April 21.

OAKLAND CEMETARY

Mrs. John Franklin Walker, Jr. (Kathy Chapman) reported that this past year Oakland has restored 40 blocks primarily in a section called East Hill. This includes 1800 feet of retaining walls and 3000 linear feet of walkways. They hosted the "Capturing the Spirit at Oakland" which is the Halloween tours and grossed over \$ 500,000.00 with over 12,000 people coming through.

They launched Living History which is the foundation's capital campaign and have raised over 10 million of the 12.5 million goal. This money will be used to rehabilitate the 1899 Oakland Bell Tower and finishing up East Hill as well as funding a new visitor's center outside the gates. East Hill is where you will find the Women's Comfort Station which we are involved with and many of the statues which we have helped clean. There is a possibility of our going out to Oakland on Dame's Day.

PATRIOTS CAMP

Mrs. James Twyman Wayt (Chrissie) reported that Patriots History Camp has been a successful program of the Atlanta Dames for three years beginning in 2017. In 2019 a fabulous video was produced recapping what happens at Patriot Camp. After taking off 2020 and 2021 due to Covid, Patriots Camp returns in 2022. Things have been up in the air as to the location which had been at The Atlanta Preservation Center. Chrissie has a meeting with Mrs. Henry McKemie Wyche (Ellen Adair) at the Cator Woolford Gardens on Monday and she has high hopes that we can work out something there. The camp has a social studies morning session and an arts and crafts afternoon session with a home cooked lunch served and provided by the Atlanta Dames. There are volunteer opportunities to make food and to help with the arts and crafts projects with the children. These are just a few of the many other opportunities to help with the camp. A meeting will be scheduled for all those interested in volunteering.

Vicki Gillespie commented that several town committees in Georgia are interested in doing this in their own cities. Also Chrissie reported that Bethabara in Winston-Salem, NC in conjunction with the Dames is interested in having a Patriots Camp there and the Dames in St. Augustine, Florida want to host a camp there. Jane Bockel said that the Dames in Jacksonville, Florida are also interested in having one as well.

ANDREW LOW HOUSE

Mrs. Geoffrey Peterson Hall (Betty) said that visitation numbers were very healthy for the fall. They have received a grant of \$ 14,500.00 from the Georgia Humanities which is fantastic news. The fall public program called Tasting Traditions went well and had an attendance of about 85 people. They will start repair work in a few weeks to the soffits, fascia and gutters on the house. If you would like to become a friend of the Andrew Low House, you can join as an individual for \$ 75.00 and if you give \$ 500.00 you will receive an invitation to the annual cocktail party gala.

GUNSTON HALL

Mrs. Joseph Maurice Spang (Mimi) was pleased to report that the news from Gunston Hall is very good. With the Covid restrictions lifted, the house and the grounds are open and welcoming guests. The gift shop is open and well stocked and weddings and receptions are being put on the calendar. The Riverside Garden will officially open in April but visitors are being allowed to tour it now. The formal gardens near the house that we contributed boxwoods to are quiet but preparations are underway for spring planting. A 10 year plan has been devised to conserve the exterior and an Institute of Museum and Library Sciences grant continues to support the focus on family initiative which establishes learning spaces for all ages at Gunston

Hall. The East Yard project is well underway and will enhance the story of Gunston Hall's enslaved community.

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

Mrs. C. Samuel Ehlers (Joanie) said we received the Bill of Rights Proclamation for 2021 from the governor's office. A group of Dames dressed in red, white and blue met on December 7, 2021 at Church of the Apostles to show their enthusiasm for this proclamation. A picture of the group was sent on to Savannah for the E-Chatter report.

SULGAVE MANOR

Mrs. Wesley Rhodes Vawter III (Terry) reported the exciting news that Georgia Dames contributed \$ 17, 939.00 to Sulgrave Manor, a new record for Georgia. There have been several seminars on George Washington with scholars that have been conducted at the Manor. Sulgrave Manor is excited about the continuing relationship with the Dames.

NEW BUSINESS

Nancy reminded everyone there will be a cocktail party on May 18 at the home of Ms. Courtney Loudermilk.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Henny Whelchel

Recording Secretary

